

February 23, 2017

Good evening Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Ziobron and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to you regarding H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

I believe cost-effective, high quality services provided in the community can be part of the solution to the state's budgeting crisis, through the shifting of state-provided services to the nonprofit sector.

Community nonprofit providers treat individuals regardless of their ability to pay, and grant funding from DMHAS is essential to cover the costs incurred by providers. Further cuts to grant funding in the DMHAS system cannot be absorbed or sustained and will result in further program closures, layoffs, and service reductions. Children, families and our communities will pay an unfair price and deserve better.

Reducing funding to nonprofits is not the answer and the state must find more fiscally responsible ways to balance the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Victoria, LCSW
Private Non-Profit Provider